de maximis, inc.

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November 15, 2007

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Alice Yeh
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 6 – October 2007
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Yeh:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

 On October 10, 2007, CPG and EPA discussed sampling (coring, sediment grabs, and CSO screening samples) the EPA was planning on conducting during and November and December to support the FFS. The CPG offered the use of the Rutherford Field Facility, equipment, boats and operators. The CPG requested copies of the proposed work plans.

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- On October 18, 2007, CPG and EPA discussed the status of EPA's review of the Partner Agency comments on the revised CPG 2007 Field Work QAPPs and Plan Addendum.
- On October 22, 2007, CPG spoke with EPA about EPA's planned FFS sampling activities.

Correspondence

- On October 1, 2007, the EPA provided comments to CPG on the SOP for pesticide analysis using the HRGC/MS method. CPG sent responses to EPA's comments on Test America's HRGC/MS SOP for pesticides analysis to EPA on October 3, 2007. EPA responded to the CPG's Response to EPA Comments on Test America's HRGC/MS SOP for Pesticides Analysis on October 10, 2007.
- On October 1, 2007, CPG sent the Habitat QAPP Worksheet #4, Sediment Grab Plan Addendum and Fish Community/Fish Tissue QAPP and Response to Comments to EPA.
- On October 2, 2007, EPA sent CPG a link to a website for obtaining CARP modeling code.
- On October 4, 2007, the USACE provided notice that the Draft Environmental Dredging Pilot Study Report was available.
- On October 4, 2007, CPG submitted a revised Worksheet #15 for the Sediment Grab Plan Addendum to EPA.
- On October 5, 2007 EPA requested an example of the Electronic Data Deliverable (EDD) format from CPG.
- On October 9, 2007, CPG submitted resumes of the Modeling Team to EPA.
- On October 10, 2007, EPA notified CPG that the proposed HRGC/MS pesticide analytical method was accepted pending receipt and approval of a new MDL study and other specified performance data. EPA stated that these studies should be conducted prior to starting field work.
- On October 10, 2007, the USACE indicated they would provide bathymetric data on the Passaic River Channel Survey.
- On October 15, 2007, CPG submitted LPRSA RI/FS Progress Report #5 to EPA and Partner agencies.
- On October 16, 2007, CPG provided EPA with a tentative schedule for the fall field work. EPA responded that field work could not start until receipt of a complete set of responses to Agency comments.



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- On October 22, 2007, EPA requested a teleconference to discuss the CPG's Modeling Team resumes.
- On October 25, 2007, CPG received comments from EPA and the Partner Agencies on the revised CPG Plan and QAPPs for Sediment Grab Plan Addendum, Fish Community/Fish Tissue Collection, Habitat Identification and Reference and Background Reconnaissance.
- On October 30, 2007, EPA sent CPG supplementary comments on the Fish Tissue Collection QAPP.
- On October 31, 2007, CPG provided observations on Sediment Grab Plan Addendum comments to the EPA.

Work

- Mobilization activities for the fall field program continued in anticipation of a late October start-up. Field supplies were purchased, laboratory contracts established, and other preparatory work was also conducted including commencement of the MDL study for a HRGC/MS method for pesticides analysis.
- Single beam bathymetry data deliverable was completed by subcontractor Gehagen and Bryant.
- Planimetrics and contouring of the aerial mapping work product continued by subcontractor GEOD. Data evaluation through River Mile 13 was completed. The balance of the aerial survey package is anticipated on or before November 17, 2007.
- CARP deliverables have been received and review is ongoing. A modeling strategy plan has been developed. Qualifications of the ENSR Modeling Team have been presented to EPA.
- A detailed sediment stability analysis was undertaken to support the development of the CSM.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

CPG is providing the results of the single beam survey with this report. CPG anticipates receipt of the multi-beam bathymetric data in November.

No sampling was conducted during the reporting period.



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(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

The CPG anticipates commencing field work for the fall program no earlier than November 26, 2007. In accordance with that program, work over the next two months will include completion of field activities, submission of samples to the laboratories and receipt of data.

A schedule for EPA, Partner Agency and CPG meetings on the Reference Plan was submitted in late September. Meetings will be scheduled within the next two reporting periods.

A final data report on both single and multi-beam surveys is schedule for delivery in November to the CPG; upon review these data will be forwarded to EPA and the Partner Agencies.

The full aerial survey package is anticipated by November 17, 2007. Upon demonstrating acceptable controls and reports, a package will be delivered to EPA and the Partner Agencies.

Over the next reporting period, the CPG will continue work on post-processing of output from LPR/NB Hydrodynamic model runs. The LPR/NB Sediment Transport model application development will be initiated within the next two reporting periods.

A draft Feasibility Study Work Plan will be submitted within the next two reporting periods. The CPG will continue screening remedial alternatives as part of the FS process.

(d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>

The CPG currently projects field mobilization no earlier than the week of November 26.

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Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard F. Potter Project Coordinator

Enclosure - Single Beam Hydrographic Survey Data

cc: Sarah Flanagan, EPA Office of Regional Counsel

William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel

Tom Taccone, USEPA Megan Grubb, USACE Lisa Baron, NJDOT Tim Kubiak, USFWS Reyhan Mehran, NOAA Janine MacGregor, NJDEP Kristine Carbonneau, ENSR